

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Brian R. Beams, et al.

Dkt. No: 05222.00184

Appln. No.: unknown

Group Art Unit: unknown

Filed: 8/22/01

Examiner: unknown

For: A SYSTEM AND METHOD AND ARTCLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR CREATING
A VIRTUAL CONSULTANT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed along with the filing of the application. This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/305,931 entitled A System, Method and Article of Manufacture for Creating a Virtual Consultant and filed on May 5, 1999, U.S. Application No. 09/306,468 entitled A System, Method and Article of Manufacture for Creating a Virtual Classroom and filed on May 5, 1999, U.S. Application No. 09/306,022 entitled A System, Method and Article of Manufacture for Providing Multiple Instructors on an as Needed Basis and filed on May 5, 1999, and U.S. Application 09/306,466 entitled A System, Method and Article of Manufacture for Creating Interactive Simulations Utilizing a Virtual Detector with External Control Features filed on May 5, 1999. It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this filing. However, if a fee is due, the Office is authorized to charge such a fee to Deposit Account No. 01-0850.

Prior to examination of the application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

20. (New) A method for providing one or more virtual instructors, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) connecting a server and one or more users and a first virtual instructor;
 - (b) selecting a destination within the server to interact with the one or more users;
 - (c) coupling the one or more users through the server based on the selected destination;
 - (d) establishing interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination; and
 - (e) dynamically adding a second virtual instructor.
21. (New) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor monitors progress and provides feedback.
22. (New) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor is selected by the one or more users.
23. (New) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor becomes the principal instructor.
24. (New) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor works with the first instructor to instruct the one or more users.
25. (New) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in

claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor collaborates privately with the first virtual instructor.

26. (New) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor leads a breakout session with one or more of the users.
27. (New) The method for establishing a virtual instructor as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor is selected by the first virtual instructor.
28. (New) The method for establishing a virtual instructor as recited in claim 20, wherein the interaction parameters include support for electronic distribution of materials from the second virtual instructor.
29. (New) An apparatus for providing one or more virtual instructors, comprising:
 - (a) logic that connects a server and one or more users and a first virtual instructor;
 - (b) logic that selects a destination within the server to interact with the one or more users;
 - (c) logic that couples the one or more users through the server based on the selected destination;
 - (d) logic that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination; and
 - (e) logic that dynamically adds a second virtual instructor.
30. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors, comprising:
 - (a) code that connects a server and one or more users and a first virtual instructor;
 - (b) code that selects a destination within the server to interact with the one or more users;

- (c) code that couples the one or more users through the server based on the selected destination;
 - (d) code that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination; and .
 - (e) code that dynamically adds a second virtual instructor.
31. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor monitors progress and provides feedback.
32. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor is selected by the one or more users.
33. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor becomes the principal instructor.
34. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor works with the first instructor to instruct the one or more users.
35. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor collaborates privately with the first virtual instructor.
36. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor leads a breakout session with one or more of the

users.

37. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor is selected by the first virtual instructor.
38. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the interaction parameters include support for electronic distribution of materials from the second virtual instructor.
39. (New) A method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) initiating a session with a virtual director;
 - (b) prompting a user to enter a response congruent with a goal;
 - (c) receiving the response to the goal;
 - (d) transmitting the response to the virtual director;
 - (e) calculating a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal under the supervision of the virtual director;
 - (f) providing feedback to the user reflecting the level of congruency to assist the user in achieving the goal; and
 - (g) providing remedial information to assist the user in achieving the goal; wherein at least one of the steps of the method can be executed manually under the supervision of the virtual director.
40. (New) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the user is manually prompted to enter the response congruent with the goal.
41. (New) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the level of congruency is manually

calculated.

42. (New) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the feedback to the user is provided manually.
43. (New) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the remedial information to assist the user in achieving the goal is determined manually.
44. (New) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the method is executed on a plurality of servers which are coupled through a computer network.
45. (New) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 44, wherein the computer network supports Internet Protocol (IP).
46. (New) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 44, wherein the computer network includes a Local Area Network (LAN).
47. (New) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 44, wherein the computer network includes a Wide Area Network (WAN).
48. (New) An apparatus for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session, comprising:
 - (a) logic that initiates a session with a virtual director;
 - (b) logic that prompts a user to enter a response congruent with a goal;
 - (c) logic that receives the response to the goal;

- (d) logic that transmits the response to the virtual director;
- (e) logic that calculates a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal under the supervision of the virtual director;
- (f) logic that provides feedback to the user reflecting the level of congruency to assist the user in achieving the goal; and
- (g) logic that provides remedial information to assist the user in achieving the goal, wherein at least one of the logic is executed manually under the supervision of the virtual director.

49. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session, comprising:

- (a) a code segment that initiates a session with a virtual director;
- (b) a code segment that prompts a user to enter a response congruent with the goal;
- (c) a code segment that receives the response to the goal;
- (d) a code segment that transmits the response to the virtual director;
- (e) a code segment that calculates a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal under the supervision of the virtual director;
- (f) a code segment that provides feedback to the user reflecting the level of congruency to assist the user in achieving the goal; and
- (g) a code segment that provides remedial information including information from the help engine to assist the user in achieving the goal, wherein at least one of the code segments can be executed manually under the supervision of the virtual director.

50. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein a user is prompted manually to enter a response congruent with a goal.

51. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein the level of congruency is calculated manually.
52. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein the feedback to the user is provided manually.
53. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein the remedial information to assist the user in achieving the goal is determined manually.
54. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein the computer program resides on a plurality of servers which are coupled through a computer network.
55. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 54, wherein the computer network supports Internet Protocol (IP).
56. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 54, wherein the computer network includes a Local Area Network (LAN).
57. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 54, wherein the computer network includes a Wide Area Network

(WAN).

58. (New) A method for establishing a virtual classroom, comprising the steps of:
- (a) connecting a virtual classroom server and one or more students;
 - (b) selecting a presentation type for instructing the one or more students;
 - (c) coupling the one or more students and one or more instructors through the virtual classroom server; and
 - (d) establishing interaction parameters for the one or more students and the one or more instructors.
59. (New) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein the presentation type includes at least one of lecture, simulation, media, interactive browsing, slideshow, video or audio.
60. (New) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein the interaction parameters are a protocol for interaction that allow only one person to interact with the virtual classroom at a time.
61. (New) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein the interaction parameters are a protocol for interaction that allow a plurality of people to participate in the virtual classroom.
62. (New) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein materials are provided for use by the one or more students and one or more teachers in the virtual classroom.
63. (New) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein homework materials are provided for use by the one or more students in the virtual classroom.
64. (New) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58,

wherein tests are provided for use by the one or more students.

65. (New) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein breakout sessions are provided for the one or more students and one or more teachers in the virtual classroom.
66. (New) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein grades are distributed electronically.
67. (New) An apparatus for establishing a virtual classroom, comprising:
- (a) logic that connects a virtual classroom server and one or more students;
 - (b) logic that selects a presentation type for instructing the one or more students;
 - (c) logic that couples the one or more students and one or more instructors through the virtual classroom server; and
 - (d) logic that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more students and the one or more instructors.
68. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom, comprising:
- (a) a code segment that connects a virtual classroom server and one or more students;
 - (b) a code segment that selects a presentation type for instructing the one or more students;
 - (c) a code segment that couples the one or more students and one or more instructors through the virtual classroom server; and
 - (d) a code segment that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more students and the one or more instructors.
69. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68; wherein the presentation type includes at least one of lecture, simulation, media, interactive

browsing, slideshow, video or audio.

70. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein the interaction parameters are a protocol for interaction that allow only one person to interact with the virtual classroom at a time.
71. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein the interaction parameters are a protocol for interaction that allow a plurality of people to participate in the virtual classroom.
72. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein materials are provided for use by the one or more students and one or more teachers in the virtual classroom.
73. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein homework materials are provided for use by the one or more students in the virtual classroom.
74. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein tests are provided for use by the one or more students.
75. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein breakout sessions are provided for the one or more students and one or more teachers in the virtual classroom.

76. (New) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein the virtual classroom is recorded.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 1, please replace the title with --Virtual Consultant--.

On page 1, before line 4, please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/305,931 entitled A System, Method and Article of Manufacture for Creating a Virtual Consultant and filed on May 5, 1999, U.S. Application No. 09/306,468 entitled A System, Method and Article of Manufacture for Creating a Virtual Classroom and filed on May 5, 1999, U.S. Application No. 09/306,022 entitled A System, Method and Article of Manufacture for Providing Multiple Instructors on an as Needed Basis and filed on May 5, 1999, and U.S. Application 09/306,466 entitled A System, Method and Article of Manufacture for Creating Interactive Simulations Utilizing a Virtual Detector with External Control Features filed on May 5, 1999. The entire disclosure of each application is hereby incorporated by reference.

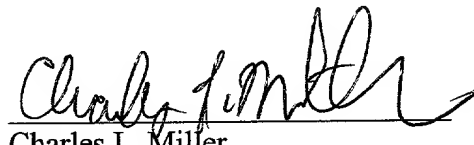
REMARKS

Claims 1-19 correspond to claims 1-19 of U.S. Application 09/305,931. Since the numbering of claims 1-19 has not changed, claims 1-19 are not amended. Claims 20-38 are renumbered corresponding to claims 1-19 of U.S. Application 09/306,022. Claims 39-57 are renumbered corresponding to claims 1-19 of U.S. Application 09/306,466. Claims 58-76 are renumbered corresponding to claims 1-19 of U.S. Application 09/306,468. Non-substantive issues regarding the antecedent basis in the original dependent claims are addressed by replacing "A" with "The" for the first word.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 1-76 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: August 22, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 1, the title has been amended as follows:

[A SYSTEM AND METHOD AND ARTCLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR CREATING A]
VIRTUAL CONSULTANT

10:23:42 AM 10/26/2010